

**Canon**

**SPEEDLITE**  
**580EX**



English

Français

Español

**INSTRUCTION MANUAL**  
**MODE D'EMPLOI**  
**MANUAL DE INSTRUCCIONES**

# Thank you for purchasing a Canon product.

The Canon Speedlite 580EX is an EOS-dedicated, high-output flash unit automatically compatible with E-TTL II, E-TTL, and TTL autoflash. It can be used in three different ways: As a normal on-camera flash, the master unit for a wireless, multi-Speedlite flash system, or a slave unit.

● **Read this instruction manual while also referring to your camera's instruction manual.**

Before using the Speedlite, read this instruction manual and your camera's instruction manual to familiarize yourself with the Speedlite operations.

● **The basic operation is the same as with normal AE shooting.**

When the 580EX is attached to an EOS camera, **almost all automatic exposure control for flash photography is handled by the camera.**

It is almost the same as using the camera's built-in flash if it has one.

You can think of the 580EX as a built-in, high-output flash.

● **It is automatically compatible with the camera's flash metering mode (E-TTL II, E-TTL, and TTL).**

The camera controls the Speedlite automatically in the following flash metering modes:

1. E-TTL II autoflash (evaluative flash metering with preflash reading/lens distance information)
2. E-TTL autoflash (evaluative flash metering with preflash reading)
3. TTL autoflash (off-the-film metering for real-time flash metering)

Regarding the camera's available flash metering modes, refer to the camera's instruction manual. The Speedlite's major specifications are listed in "External Flash Items."

The camera instruction manual's chapter on flash photography will refer to cameras having **1 and 2 as a Type-A camera** (compatible with E-TTL or E-TTL II). And cameras having **3** (compatible with only TTL) **are called Type-B cameras.**

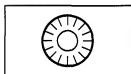
\* This instruction manual assumes that you are using the 580EX with a Type-A camera.

For Type-B cameras, see page 53.

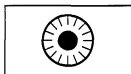
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## Conventions Used in this Manual



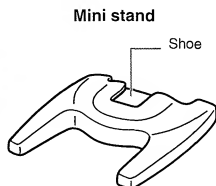
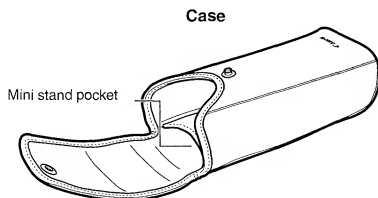
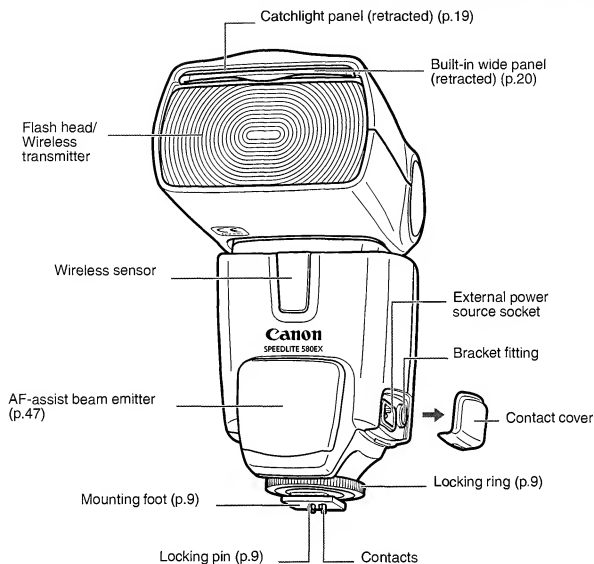
- The <◉> symbol in the text refers to the Select Dial.

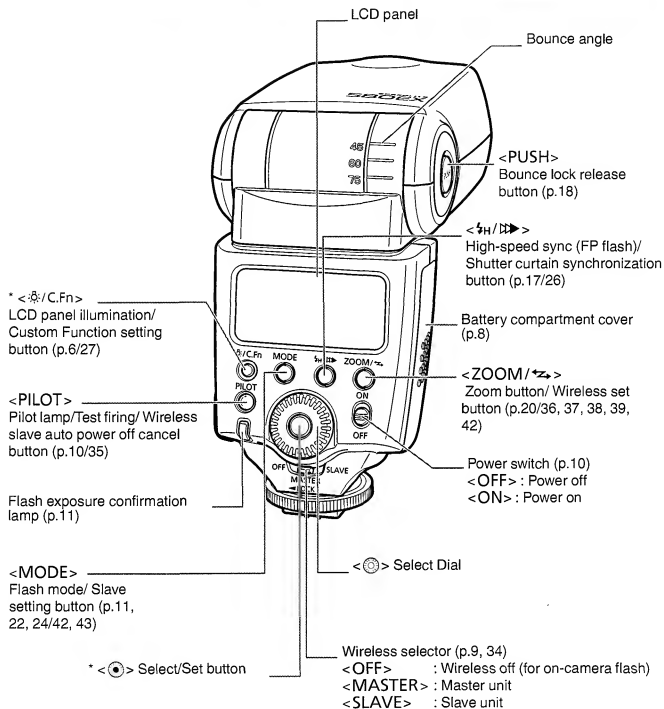


- The <◐> symbol in the text refers to the Select/Set button.

- The operation procedures in this instruction manual assume that both the camera and Speedlite's power switches are ON.
- Icons are used in the text to indicate the respective buttons, dials, and settings. They match the same icons found on the camera and Speedlite.
- The (◉8) / (◉12) icons indicate that the respective function remains in effect for 8 sec. or 12 sec.
- Reference page numbers are indicated by (p.\*\*).
- This instruction manual uses the following alert symbols:
  - ⚠ : The Caution symbol indicates a warning to prevent shooting problems.
  - 📖 : The Note symbol gives supplemental information.

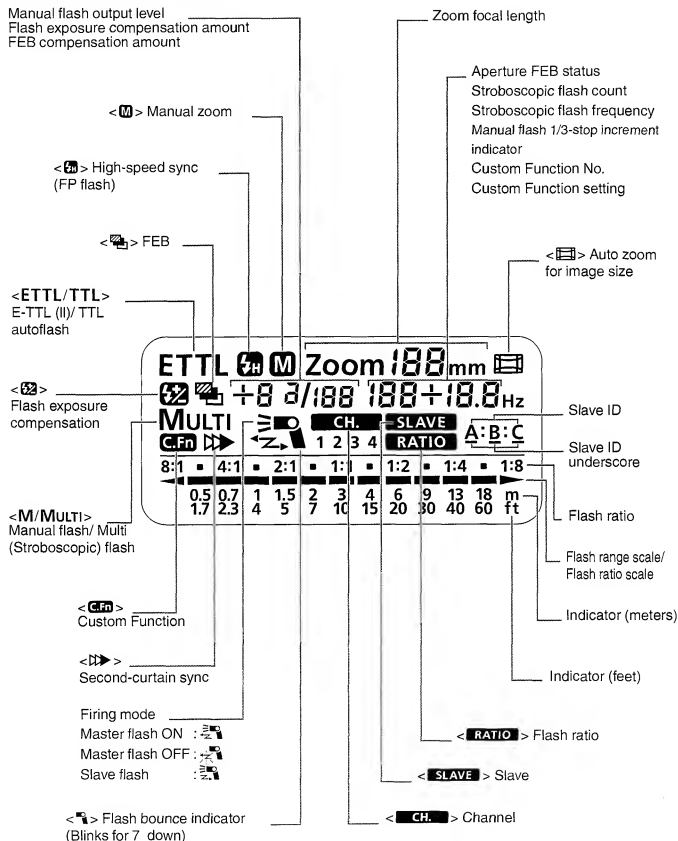
# Nomenclature





Asterisked buttons have a timer that keep the button's function active for 8 sec. (8) after you let go of the button. The <P/C.Fn> illumination lasts for 12 sec.

## LCD Panel



- To illuminate the LCD panel, press the <Light> button.
- The items actually displayed depend on the current settings.

# 1

## Getting Started and Basic Operation

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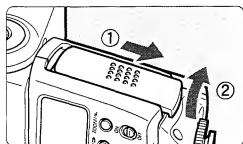
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To avoid overheating and deteriorating the flash head, do not fire rapid bursts of more than 20 continuous flashes. After 20 continuous flashes, allow a rest time of at least 10 min.

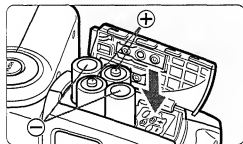
# Installing Batteries

Install four size-AA batteries.



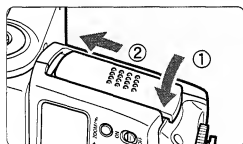
## 1 Open the cover.

- Slide the battery compartment cover as shown by the arrow and open it.



## 2 Install the batteries.

- Make sure the + and – battery contacts are correctly oriented as shown in the battery compartment.



## 3 Close the cover.

- Close the battery compartment cover and slide it as shown by the arrow.

## Recycling Time and Flash Count (with size-AA alkaline batteries)

Recycling Time (Approx.)		Flash Count (Approx.)
Quick Flash	Normal Flash	
0.1 - 3	0.1 - 6	100 - 700

- Based on new size-AA alkaline batteries and Canon's testing standards.
- Quick flash enables a flash to be fired before flash-ready (p.10).

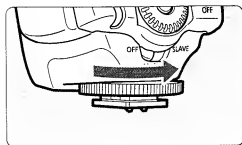


Since the shape of their contacts is not standardized, using non-alkaline size-AA batteries may result in faulty battery connection.



- Use four new batteries of the same brand and type. Do not mix battery types. When replacing batteries, replace all four batteries at the same time.
- Size-AA Ni-MH or lithium batteries can also be used.

## Attaching to the Camera



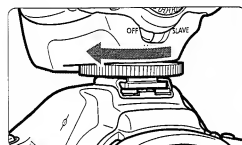
### 1 Loosen the locking ring.

- Turn the locking ring as shown by the arrow to loosen it.



### 2 Attach it to the camera.

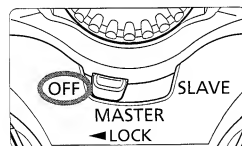
- Slip the Speedlite's mounting foot all the way into the hot shoe.



### 3 Tighten.

- Turn the locking ring as shown by the arrow. The locking pin will protrude from the mounting foot to further secure the attachment.
- To detach the Speedlite, loosen the locking ring until the locking pin disengages. Then slip the Speedlite out of the hot shoe.

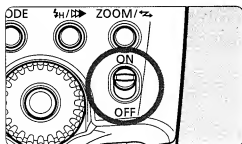
## Wireless Selector Settings



The wireless selector is for switching between normal flash shooting and wireless flash shooting.

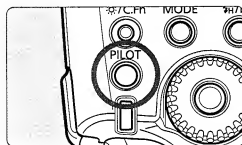
For normal flash shooting, be sure to set the wireless selector to <OFF>.

## Turn on the Power Switch



### 1 Set the power switch to <ON>.

- ▶ The flash will start recycling.



### 2 Check that the flash is ready.

- The pilot lamp will first turn green (ready for quick flash), then red (fully recycled or flash ready).
- To fire a test flash, press the pilot lamp.

## About Quick Flash

Quick flash enables a flash to be fired before flash-ready, when the pilot lamp is still green.

Although the Guide No. will be 1/6 to 1/2 that of the full output, quick flash is effective for near subjects and when you want a shorter recycle time.

Set the drive mode to Single. Quick flash cannot be used in the continuous shooting, FEB, manual flash, and stroboscopic flash modes.

## About Auto Power Off

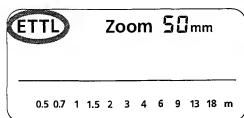
To save battery power, the power will turn off automatically after 90 sec. of idle use. To turn on the Speedlite again, press the shutter button halfway. Or press the Speedlite's test firing button.



- A test firing cannot be fired while the camera's operation timer  $\odot 4$  or  $\odot 6$  is active.
- The Speedlite's settings will be retained in memory even after the power is turned off. To retain the Speedlite's settings when you replace the batteries, replace the batteries within 1 minute after turning off the power.

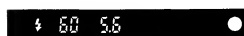
# Fully Automatic Flash Shooting

When you set the camera's shooting mode to <P> (Program AE) or <□> (Full Auto), E-TTL II/E-TTL fully automatic flash will make it as easy as normal AE shooting.



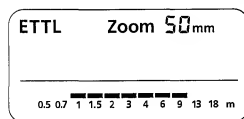
## 1 Set the Speedlite to <ETTL>.

- Press the <MODE> button so that <ETTL> is displayed.



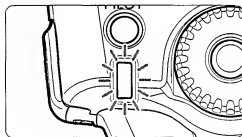
## 2 Focus the subject.

- Press the shutter button halfway to focus.
  - ▶ The shutter speed and aperture will be set as displayed in the viewfinder.
- Check that the <⚡> icon is lit in the viewfinder.



## 3 Take the picture.

- Check that the subject is within the effective range displayed on the LCD panel.
  - ▶ A preflash is fired right before the shot is taken, then the main flash is fired.
  - ▶ If a standard flash exposure was obtained, the flash exposure confirmation lamp will light for about 3 sec.



● <ETTL> will be displayed on the LCD panel even if the camera is compatible with E-TTL II.

● If the flash exposure confirmation lamp does not light, move closer to the subject and take the picture again. You can also increase the camera's ISO speed.

## Using E-TTL II and E-TTL Autoflash in the Shooting Modes

Just set the camera's shooting mode to **<Av>** (aperture-priority AE), **<Tv>** (shutter-priority AE), or **<M>** (manual) and you can use E-TTL II/E-TTL autofocus.

<b>Tv</b>	Select this mode when you want to set the shutter speed manually. The camera will then automatically set the aperture matching the shutter speed to obtain a standard exposure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● If the aperture display blinks, it means that the background exposure will be underexposed or overexposed. Adjust the shutter speed until the aperture display stops blinking.</li></ul>
<b>Av</b>	Select this mode when you want to set the aperture manually. The camera will then automatically set the shutter speed matching the aperture to obtain a standard exposure. If the background is dark like a night scene, a slow sync speed will be used to obtain a standard exposure of both the main subject and background. Standard exposure of the main subject is obtained with the flash, while a standard exposure of the background is obtained with a slow shutter speed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Since a slow shutter speed will be used for low-light scenes, using a tripod is recommended.</li><li>● If the shutter speed display blinks, it means that the background exposure will be underexposed or overexposed. Adjust the aperture until the shutter speed display stops blinking.</li></ul>
<b>M</b>	Select this mode when you want to set both the shutter speed and aperture manually. Standard exposure of the main subject is obtained with the flash. The exposure of the background is obtained with the shutter speed and aperture combination you set.

- If you use the **<DEP>** or **<A-DEP>** shooting mode, the result will be the same as using the **<P>** (Program AE) mode.

### Flash Sync Speeds and Apertures Use





	Shutter Speed Setting	Aperture Setting
<b>P</b>	Automatic (1/60 sec. - 1/X sec.)	Automatic
<b>Tv</b>	Manual (30 sec. - 1/X sec.)	Automatic
<b>Av</b>	Automatic (30 sec. - 1/X sec.)	Manual
<b>M</b>	Manual (buLb, 30 sec. - 1/X sec.)	Manual

- 1/X sec. is the camera's maximum flash sync speed.



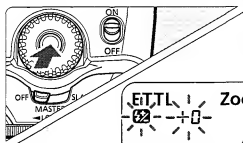
## Using Flash



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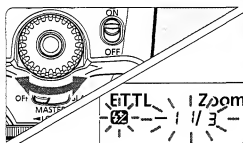
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
## Flash Exposure Compensation

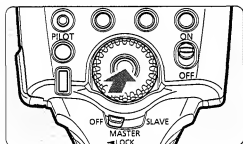
You can adjust the flash output as easily as normal exposure compensation. Flash exposure compensation can be set up to  $\pm 3$  stops in 1/3-stop increments. (If the camera enables only 1/2-stop increments, then only 1/2-stop increments can be set.)



- 1 Press the  button so that the  icon and flash exposure compensation amount blink.



- 2 Set the flash exposure compensation amount.
  - Turn the  dial to set the amount.
  - To cancel the flash exposure compensation, set the amount to +0.



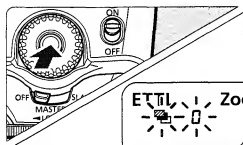
- 3 Press the  button.
  - ▶ The flash exposure compensation amount will be set.





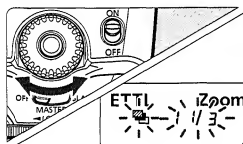
If flash exposure compensation has been set with both the Speedlite and camera, the Speedlite's flash exposure compensation amount will override the camera's.

## FEB (Flash Exposure Bracketing)

You can take three flash shots while automatically changing the flash output for each shot up to  $\pm 3$  stops in 1/3-stop increments (1/2-stop increments if the camera enables only 1/2-stop increments). This is called FEB (Flash Exposure Bracketing).

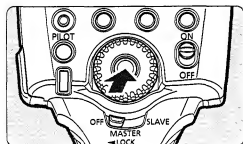


- 1 Press the  button so that the  icon and flash exposure bracketing amount blink.



- 2 Set the flash exposure bracketing amount.

- Turn the  dial to set the amount.



- 3 Press the  button.

- ▶ FEB will be set.



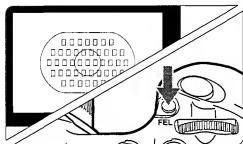
- After all three shots are taken, FEB will be canceled.
- The shots will be taken in the drive mode set with the camera.
- For FEB shooting, set the camera's drive mode to Single shooting and be sure the flash is ready before you shoot.
- You can also combine FEB with flash exposure compensation and FE lock.

# FEL FE Lock

FE (flash exposure) lock enables you to lock the correct flash exposure for any part of the picture.

With <ETTL> displayed on the LCD panel, you press the camera's <FEL> button. If the camera does not have the <FEL> button, press the <★> button.

## 1 Focus the subject.



## 2 Press the <FEL> button. (16)

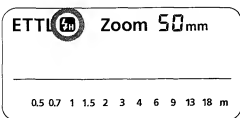
- Aim the viewfinder center over the subject and press the <FEL> button.
- ▶ A preflash will be fired to obtain a flash exposure reading for the subject.
- ▶ "FEL" will be displayed on the LCD panel for 0.5 sec.
- Each time you press the <FEL> button, a preflash will be fired and a new flash exposure reading will be locked.






- If the subject is too far away and underexposure will result, the <L> icon will blink in the viewfinder. Move closer to the subject and try the FE lock again.
- If <ETTL> is not displayed on the LCD panel, FE lock will not be possible.
- If the subject is too small, FE lock might not be very effective.

## High-Speed Sync (FP Flash)




With high-speed sync, you can use flash with all shutter speeds. This is convenient when you want to use aperture priority for fill-flash portraits.



**Press the  button so that  is displayed.**

- Check that the  icon is lit in the viewfinder.
- Stroboscopic flash cannot be set.



- If you set a shutter speed that is the same or slower than the camera's maximum flash sync speed,  will not be displayed in the viewfinder.
- With high-speed sync, the faster the shutter speed, the shorter the effective flash range will be. Check the LCD panel for the effective flash range.
- To return to normal flash, press the  button so that  icon turns off.

## Bounce Flash

By pointing the flash head toward a wall or ceiling, the flash will bounce off the surface before illuminating the subject. This can soften shadows behind the subject for a more natural-looking shot. This is called bounce flash.

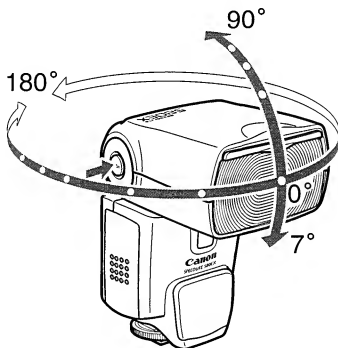
### Set the Bounce Direction

Hold down the <PUSH> button and turn the flash head.

If the flash coverage is set automatically, the flash coverage will be set to 50mm.

The LCD panel will also display <- -> mm.

- You can also set the flash coverage manually.

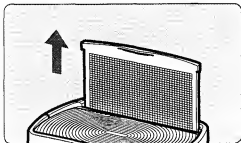


- ❗ If the wall or ceiling is too far away, the bounced flash might be too weak and result in underexposure.
- The wall or ceiling should be a plain, white color for high reflectance. If the bounce surface is not white, a color cast may result in the picture.
- After you take the shot, if the flash exposure confirmation lamp does not light, use a larger aperture opening and try again.

## Creating a Catchlight

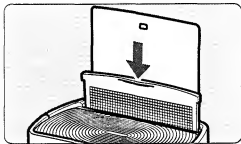
With the catchlight panel, you can create a catchlight in the subject's eyes to add life to the facial expression.

### 1 Point the flash head upward by 90°.



### 2 Pull out the wide panel.

- The catchlight panel will come out at the same time.



### 3 Push in the wide panel.

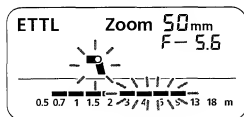
- Push in only the wide panel.
- Follow the same procedure as for bounce flash.



- Point the flash head straight ahead and then upward by 90°. The catchlight will not work if you swing the flash head left or right.
- For maximum catchlight effect, stay within 1.5 m/4.9 ft of the subject.

## Closeup Flash Shooting

If you want to shoot a subject about 0.5 - 2 m (1.6 - 6.6 ft) away, hold down the <PUSH> button and tilt the flash head downward by 7°.



## ZOOM Setting the Flash Coverage and Using the Wide Panel

The flash coverage can be set to match the lens focal length from 24mm to 105mm. The flash coverage can be set automatically or manually. Also, with the built-in wide panel, the flash coverage can be expanded to 14mm wide-angle lenses.

ETTL  Zoom 24mm

0.5 0.7 1 1.5 2 3 4 6 9 13 18 m

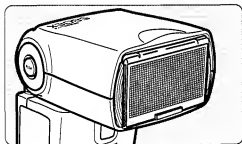
### Press the <ZOOM/↔> button.

- Turn the <⊙> dial to change the flash coverage.
- When the flash coverage is set automatically, <M> is not displayed.



If you set the flash coverage manually, make sure it covers the lens focal length so that the picture will not have a dark periphery.

### Using the Wide Panel

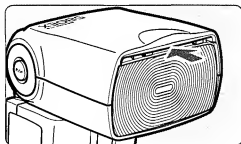


Pull out the wide panel and place it over the flash head as shown. The flash coverage will then be extended to 14mm.

- The catchlight panel will come out at the same time. Push the catchlight panel back in.
- The <ZOOM/↔> button will not work.




- If you use bounce flash with the wide panel in place, the entire display on the LCD panel will blink as a warning. Since the subject will be illuminated by both the bounce flash and direct flash, it will look unnatural.
- Pull out the wide panel gently. Using excessive force may detach the wide panel.
- If the wide panel is accidentally detached, the <ZOOM/↔> button will not work. The zoom feature will work again when you press the spot shown by the arrow. The entire display on the LCD panel will blink, but the Speedlite will work normally.

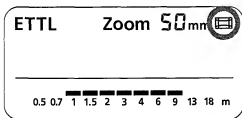


The flash coverage will not be compatible with the EF15mm f/2.8 Fisheye lens.

## Automatic Setting of Flash Coverage for the Camera's Image Size

EOS digital cameras have one of three image sizes. The lens' effective focal length will differ depending on the camera's image size. The Speedlite automatically recognizes the EOS digital camera's image size and automatically sets the flash coverage for lens focal lengths from 24mm to 105mm.

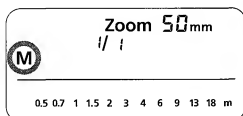
When the Speedlite is attached to a compatible camera, <  > will appear on the Speedlite's LCD panel.



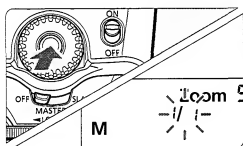
# M Manual Flash

You can set the flash output from 1/128 power to 1/1 full power in 1/3-stop increments.

Use a hand-held flash meter to determine the required flash output to obtain a correct flash exposure.

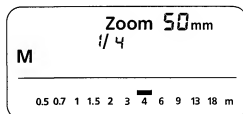


- 1 Press the <MODE> button so that <M> is displayed.**



- 2 Set the flash output.**

- Press the <Q> button.
- ▶ The flash output display will blink.
- Turn the <Q> dial to set the flash output, then press the <Q> button.
- Press the shutter button halfway to see the effective flash range displayed.



## Displayed Flash Output Figures

When you change the flash output during shooting, the table below makes it easier to see how the stop changes such as  $1/2 - 0.3 \rightarrow 1/2 \rightarrow 1/2 + 0.3$ . You can see how the stop changes when you increase or decrease the flash output.

For example, when you decrease the flash output to  $1/2$ ,  $1/2 - 0.3$ , or  $1/2 - 0.7$ , and then increase the flash output to more than  $1/2$ ,  $1/2 + 0.3$ ,  $1/2 + 0.7$ , and  $1/1$  will be displayed.

## Sample Flash Output Figures

Figures for decreased flash output  $\rightarrow$

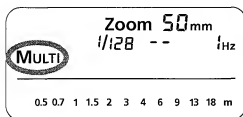
<b>1/1</b>	1/1 -0.3	1/1 -0.7	<b>1/2</b>	1/2 -0.3	1/2 -0.7	<b>1/4</b>	...
	1/2 +0.7	1/2 +0.3		1/4 +0.7	1/4 +0.3		...

$\leftarrow$  Figures for increased flash output

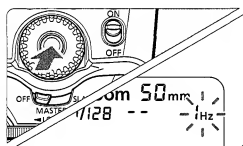
# MULTI Stroboscopic Flash

With stroboscopic flash, a rapid series of flashes is fired. It can be used to capture multiple images of a moving subject in a single photograph for later study.

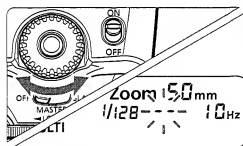
You can set the firing frequency (number of flashes per sec. expressed as Hz), the number of flashes, and the flash output.



- 1 Press the <MODE> button so that <MULTI> is displayed.**



- 2 Select the item to be set.**
- Press the <◉> button to select the item (blinks).



- 3 Set the desired setting.**
- Turn the <◉> dial to set the setting, then press the <◉> button.
  - ▶ The next item to be set will blink.
  - After you set the flash output and press the <◉> button, the entire display will turn on.

## Calculating the Shutter Speed

During stroboscopic flash, the shutter should remain open until the firing stops. Use the formula below to calculate the shutter speed and set it with the camera.

Number of flashes ÷ Firing frequency (Hz) = Shutter speed

For example, if the number of flashes is 10 and the firing frequency is 5 Hz, the shutter speed should be at least 2 sec.



To avoid overheating and deteriorating the flash head, do not fire more than 10 stroboscopic bursts. Then allow the Speedlite to rest for at least 10 min.



- Stroboscopic flash is most effective with a highly reflective subject against a dark background.
- Using a tripod, a remote switch, and external power source is recommended.
- A flash output of 1/1 or 1/2 cannot be set for stroboscopic flash.
- Stroboscopic flash can be used with **"bulb."**
- If the number of flashes is displayed as — —, the firing will continue until the shutter is closed or the battery runs out. The number of flashes will be limited as shown by the table below.

### Max. Stroboscopic Flashes

Flash Output \ Hz	1	2	3	4	5	6 - 7	8 - 9
1/4	7	6	5	4	4	3	3
1/8	14	14	12	10	8	6	5
1/16	30	30	30	20	20	20	10
1/32	60	60	60	50	50	40	30
1/64	90	90	90	80	80	70	60
1/128	100	100	100	100	100	90	80

Flash Output \ Hz	10	11	12 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 50	60 - 199
1/4	2	2	2	2	2	2
1/8	4	4	4	4	4	4
1/16	8	8	8	8	8	8
1/32	20	20	20	18	16	12
1/64	50	40	40	35	30	20
1/128	70	70	60	50	40	40

- If the number of flashes is displayed as — —, the maximum number of flashes will be as shown by the table below regardless of the firing frequency.

Flash Output	1/4	1/8	1/10	1/32	1/64	1/128
Flashes	2	4	8	12	20	40

## ▶▶ Second-Curtain Sync

With a slow shutter speed, you can create a light trail following the subject. The flash fires right before the shutter closes.

ETTL

Zoom 50mm



0.5 0.7 1 1.5 2 3 4 6 9 13 18 m

**Press the <H/▶▶> button so that <▶▶> is displayed.**

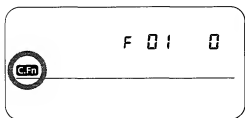
- Stroboscopic flash cannot be set.



- Setting the shooting mode to "buLb" will make it easier for second-curtain sync.
- To return to normal flash, press the <H/▶▶> button so that the <▶▶> icon turns off.
- With E-TTL II/E-TTL, the flash will fire twice even with a slow sync speed. The first flash is the preflash.

## C.Fn Setting Custom Functions

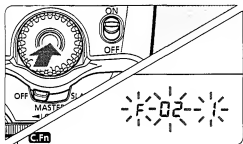
You can customize Speedlite features to suit your preferences.  
Do it with Custom Functions.



- 1 Press the  $\langle \text{C.Fn} \rangle$  button for 2 sec. so that  $\langle \text{C.Fn} \rangle$  is displayed.**

**2 Select the Custom Function No.**

- Turn the  $\langle \text{C.Fn} \rangle$  dial to set the Custom Function No.



**3 Change the setting.**




- Press the  $\langle \text{C.Fn} \rangle$  button.
- ▶ The selected setting will blink.
- ▶ Turn the  $\langle \text{C.Fn} \rangle$  dial to select "0" or "1", then press the  $\langle \text{C.Fn} \rangle$  button.
- ▶ After you set the Custom Function and press the  $\langle \text{MODE} \rangle$  button, the camera will be ready to shoot.



### Changing Meters or Feet

After step 1 above, press the  $\langle \text{C.Fn} \rangle$  button for 2 sec. With the distance display blinking, turn the  $\langle \text{C.Fn} \rangle$  dial to change the unit to feet or meters.  
Press the  $\langle \text{C.Fn} \rangle$  button.

# Custom Function Settings

Custom Function No.	Item	Setting No.	Setting Description
C.Fn-01	Automatic cancellation of FEB	0	Enabled
		1	Disabled
C.Fn-02	FEB sequence	0	Standard exposure → Decreased exposure → Increased exposure
		1	Decreased exposure → Standard exposure → Increased exposure
C.Fn-03	Flash metering mode	0	E-TTL II/E-TTL autoflash
		1	TTL autoflash
C.Fn-04	Slave unit's auto power off time	0	Auto power off after 60 min.
		1	Auto power off after 10 min.
C.Fn-05	Cancellation of slave unit's auto power off	0	Cancellable with master unit within 1 hour
		1	Cancellable with master unit within 8 hours
C.Fn-06	Modeling Flash	0	Enabled
		1	Disabled
C.Fn-07	Flash recycling method when external power source is used	0	Recycle with both the Speedlite and external power source
		1	Recycle with only the external power source
C.Fn-08	Quick flash with continuous shooting	0	Disabled
		1	Enabled
C.Fn-09	Test firing with autoflash	0	1/32
		1	Full output
C.Fn-10	Modeling flash with test firing button	0	Disabled
		1	Enabled
C.Fn-11	Auto setting of flash coverage to match camera's image size	0	Enabled
		1	Disabled
C.Fn-12	AF-assist beam OFF	0	Disabled
		1	Enabled
C.Fn-13	Flash exposure compensation setting method	0	Set with <  > button and <  > dial.
		1	Set directly with <  >.
C.Fn-14	Auto Power Off activation	0	On
		1	Off

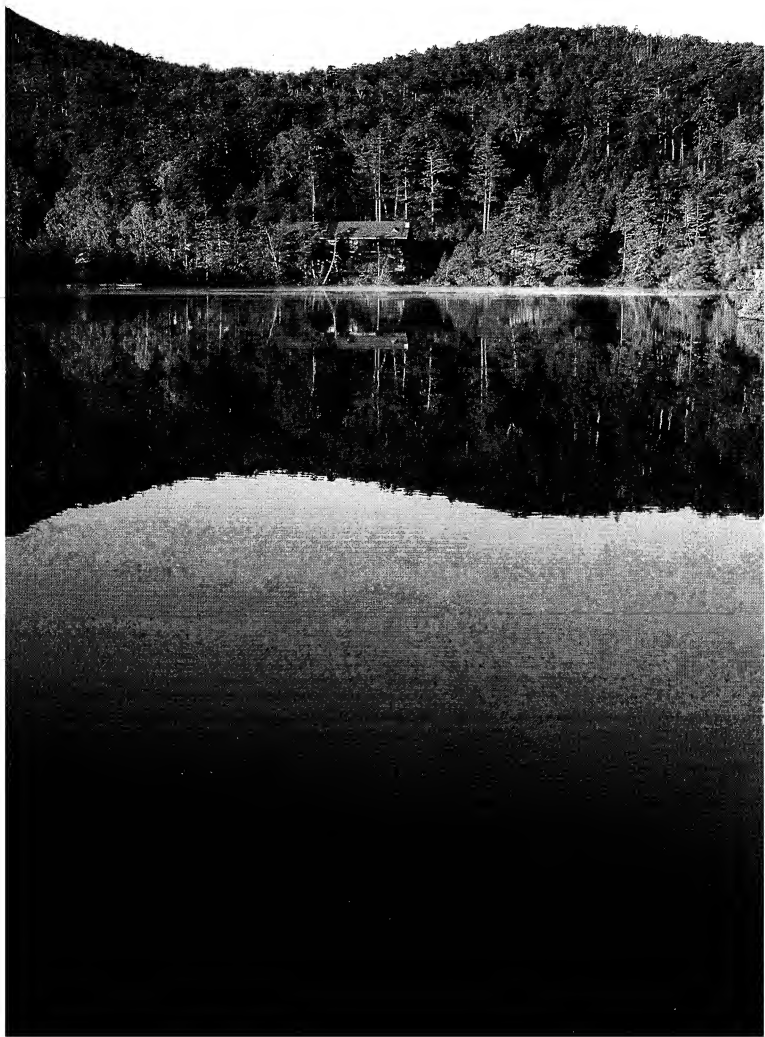
- C.Fn-06: Convenient when you want to check the depth of field. (p.41)
- C.Fn-07: If both the external power source and the Speedlite's internal batteries are used to recharge the flash, both power sources will be used together. However, if the internal batteries become exhausted, shooting may be disabled. If 1 is set, only the external power source will be used to recharge the flash and the internal batteries will be spared. Note that even if you set it to 1, the Speedlite will still require internal batteries for flash control.



- C.Fn-03-1 is a setting for EOS-1 series film cameras only. Do not use this setting if you have an EOS digital camera or EOS REBEL T2/300X. With an EOS digital camera or EOS REBEL T2/300X, this setting will cause improper flash control—the flash might not fire or it may fire only at full output.
- If you use a Type-A camera and set C.Fn-03-1, wireless autoflash will not work.
- If "AF-assist beam OFF" is set with the Speedlite or camera, the AF-assist beam will not be emitted.



- If you use a Type-B camera and set C.Fn-03-0, E-TTL II/E-TTL autoflash will not work.





## Wireless Flash

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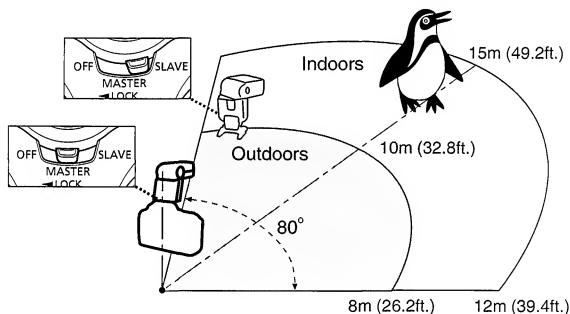
About Wireless Flash .....	32
Fully Automatic Wireless Flash .....	34
Flash Ratio with E-TTL II.....	38
Wireless Manual Flash with Varied Flash Output.....	42
Setting Manual Flash and Stroboscopic Flash with the Slave Unit .....	43

## About Wireless Flash

With multiple Canon Speedlites having the wireless flash feature, you can create various lighting effects with the same ease as using normal E-TTL II autoflash.

The settings you input with the 580EX (master unit) attached to the camera are also transmitted to the slave units which are controlled by the master unit via wireless. Thus, you need not operate the slave units at all during the shoot. The basic wireless set-up is illustrated below. Then all you do is set the master unit to <ETTL> and wireless E-TTL II autoflash will be enabled (p.34). Note that with Type-A cameras prior to the EOS-1D Mark II and EOS ELAN 7NE/ELAN 7N/30V/33V, E-TTL autoflash will be used instead.

### Basic Wireless Settings & Setup

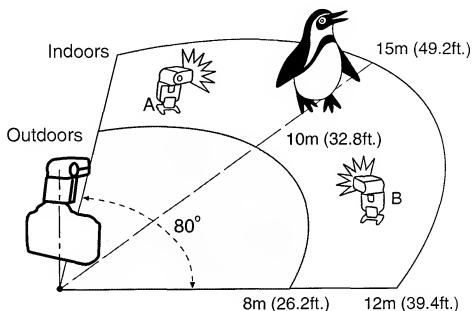


- Any flash exposure compensation amount, high-speed sync (FP flash), FE lock, FEB amount, manual flash, and stroboscopic flash settings set with the master unit will all be automatically transmitted to the slave units.
- Even with multiple Speedlites positioned as slave units, all will be controlled by wireless.
- A 580EX set as a slave unit can also be controlled by wireless by Speedlite Transmitter ST-E2 (optional).
- Hereinafter, the "master unit" will refer to a 580EX set as the master unit. and a wirelessly-controlled "slave unit" will be a 580EX set as the slave unit.

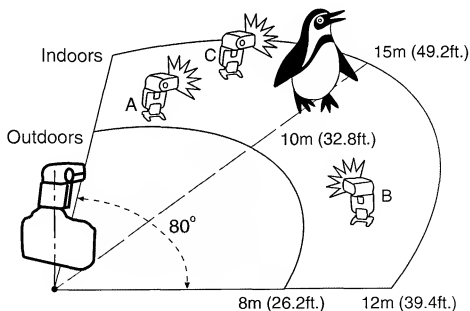
## Multi-Speedlite, Wireless Lighting Configurations

You can create two or three slave groups and set the flash ratio for E-TTL II autoflash shooting (p.38 - 42).

### Wireless flash with two slave groups (p.38)

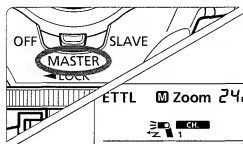


### Wireless flash with three slave groups (p.40)



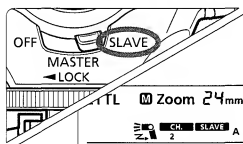
# Fully Automatic Wireless Flash

This method has all the Speedlites fire at the same flash output with E-TTL II autoflash controlling the total flash output.



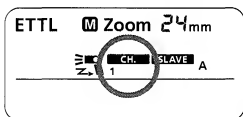
## 1 Set the camera-attached 580EX as the master unit.

- Set the wireless selector to <MASTER>.



## 2 Set the slave 580EX Speedlites(s) as the slave unit(s).

- Set the wireless selector to <SLAVE>.



## 3 Check the communication channel.

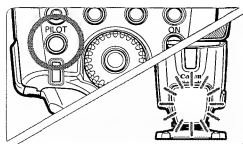
- If the master unit and slave unit(s) are set to a different channel, set them all to the same channel (p.37).

## 4 Position the camera and Speedlites as desired.

- Position the Speedlites within the range shown on the next page.

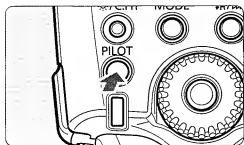
## 5 Set the master unit's flash mode to <ETTL>.

- The slave unit(s) will also be automatically set to <ETTL>.



## 6 Check that the flash is ready.

- When the slave unit is ready to fire, the AF-assist beam will blink once each second.

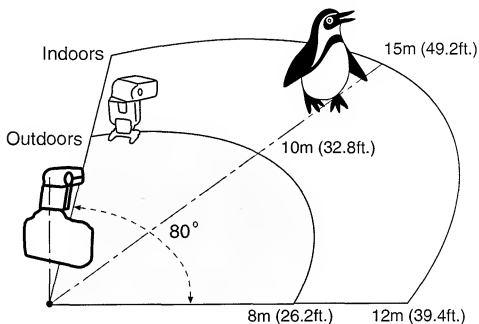


## 7 Check the flash operation.

- Press the master unit's test firing button.
- ▶ The slave unit will fire. If the flash does not fire, adjust the slave unit's angle toward the master unit and distance from the master unit.

## 8 Set the camera and shoot.

- Set the camera in the same way as with normal flash shooting.



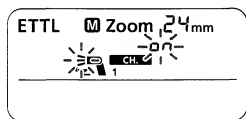
- Use the mini stand (tripod socket provided) to prop up the slave unit.
- Use the bounce feature to swing the slave unit's flash body so that the wireless sensor faces the master unit.
- Indoors, the wireless signal may also bounce off the wall so there is more leeway in positioning the slave unit(s).
- After positioning the slave unit(s), be sure to test the wireless operation before shooting.
- Do not place any obstacles between the master unit and slave unit(s). Obstacles can block the transmission of wireless signals.



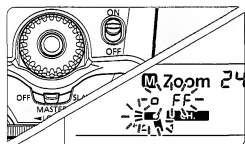
- The Speedlite's zoom setting will be set automatically to 24mm. It is possible to change the master unit's zoom setting. However, note that the master unit transmits wireless signals to the slave unit(s) with the preflash. Therefore, the flash coverage must cover the slave unit's position. If you change the master unit's zoom setting, be sure to test the wireless operation before shooting.
- If the slave unit enters auto power off, it can be turned on again by pressing the master unit's test firing button.
- A test flash cannot be fired while the camera's operation timer  $\odot 4$  or  $\odot 6$  is active.

## Master Unit's Flash ON/OFF

You can disable the master unit from firing during actual exposure so that only the slave unit(s) will fire in the final picture.

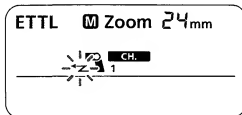


- 1 Press the **<ZOOM/⚡>** button so that the display blinks as shown on the left.



- 2 Disable the master unit's flash firing.

- Turn the **<MODE>** dial to select **<FF>**, then press the **<OK>** button.
- ▶ The **<⚡>** icon will blink.



Even if you disable the master unit's flash firing, it will still fire a preflash to transmit wireless signals.

## Using Fully Automatic Wireless Flash

Flash exposure compensation and other settings set with the master unit will also be automatically set in the slave units. Thus, you need not make settings on the slave unit(s). Wireless flash with the following settings can be done in the same way as with normal flash shooting.

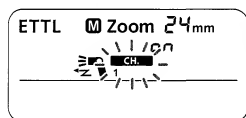
- Flash exposure compensation
- High-speed sync (FP flash)
- FE lock
- FEB
- Manual flash
- Stroboscopic flash



With FE lock, if even one Speedlite will result in underexposure, the <⚡> icon will blink in the viewfinder. Open the aperture more or move the slave unit closer to the subject.

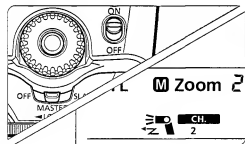
## Setting Communication Channel

If there is another Canon wireless flash system nearby, you can change the channel No. to prevent signal confusion. Both the master and slave units must be set to the same channel No.



1

Press the <ZOOM/↔> button so that <CH.> blinks.



2

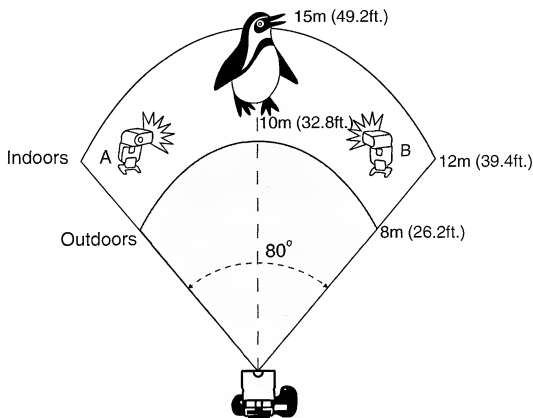
Set the channel No.

- Turn the <⊙> dial to select the channel number, then press the <⊙> button.

## Flash Ratio with E-TTL II

With one master unit and one or two slave units off-camera, you can adjust the flash ratio for E-TTL II autoflash shooting.

The example below has two slave units and the master unit disabled from firing.

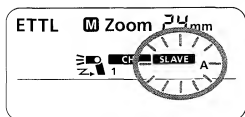


### Set the Slave Unit



Multiple slave units can be assigned to different slave groups by setting the slave ID.

1 Set the wireless selector to <SLAVE>. (p.34)

2 Press the <ZOOM/↔> button so that <SLAVE> blinks.



### 3 Set the slave ID.

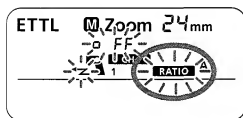
- Turn the  dial to select <A>, then press the  button.
- Repeat steps 1 to 3 to set <B> for the other slave unit.

## Set the Master Unit



### 1 Set the wireless selector to <MASTER>. (p.34)

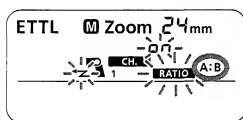
### 2 Disable the master unit's flash firing. (p.36)

### 3 Press the <ZOOM/ > button so that < **RATIO** > blinks.



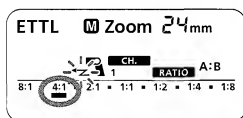
### 4 Select the flash ratio.

- Turn the  dial to select <A:B>, then press the  button.



### 5 Set the flash ratio.

- Turn the  dial to set the flash ratio.



### 6 Set the camera and shoot.

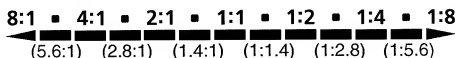
- Set the camera in the same way as with normal flash shooting.



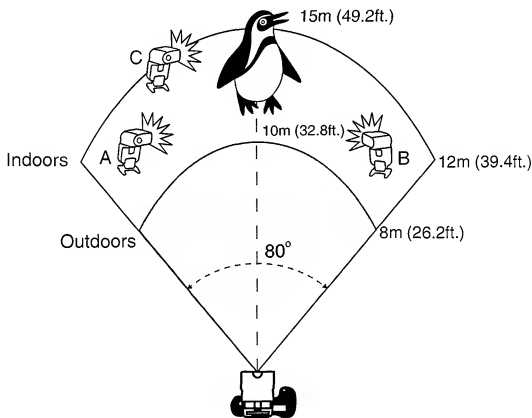
With the EOS ELAN II/ELAN II E/50/50E, EOS 500N/REBEL G, EOS IX, EOS IX7/IX Lite, EOS 300/REBEL 2000, and EOS 3000N/66/REBEL XS N/REBEL G II, the flash ratio cannot be set with multiple Speedlites.



- The flash ratio range of 8:1 - 1:1 - 1:8 is equivalent to 3:1 - 1:1 - 1:3 in stops (1/2-stop increments).
- The flash ratio at the ■ is shown in parentheses below the scale.



## Wireless Flash with Three Slave Groups



You can have slave groups A and B and also add slave group C. You can use slave groups A and B to obtain the standard flash exposure of the subject, and slave group C to illuminate the background to eliminate shadows.



### Set the slave units.

- See "Set the Slave Unit" on page 38 to set the slave unit's ID to <A>, <B>, or <C>.
- For slave <C>, also set the flash exposure compensation as necessary.

## 2 Set the master unit and shoot.

- See "Set the Master Unit" on page 39. In step 4, select <A:B C>.



- If <RATIO A:B> is set, the Speedlite in slave group <C> will not fire.
- If you point the slave group <C> Speedlite toward the subject, the subject will be overexposed.

### Modeling Flash

If the camera has a depth-of-field preview button, press it to fire a 1-sec. burst of flashes. This is the modeling flash.

You can check the lighting and shadow effects. You can fire the modeling flash for both wireless and normal flash shooting.

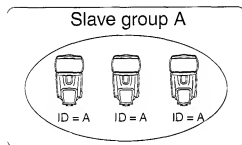


- Do not fire the modeling flash more than 10 consecutive times. If you fire the modeling flash 10 consecutive times, allow the Speedlite to rest for at least 10 min. to avoid overheating and deteriorating the flash head.



- The modeling flash cannot be fired with the EOS 300/REBEL 2000 and Type-B cameras (p.2).

### About Slave Group Control

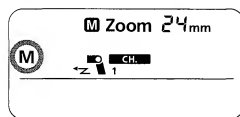


For example, if you have the slave ID set to <A> for three Speedlites, all three Speedlites will be controlled as if they were one Speedlite in slave group A.

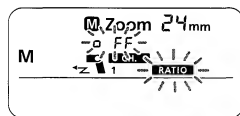
# Wireless Manual Flash with Varied Flash Output

With manual flash and multiple Speedlites, you can set a different flash output for each slave unit (group).

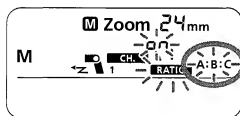
All settings are done with the master unit.



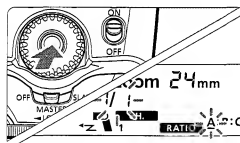
- 1 Press the <MODE> button so that <M> is displayed.



- 2 Press the <ZOOM/> button so that <RATIO> blinks.



- 3 Select the flash ratio.
  - Turn the <⊙> dial to select <A:B> or <A:B:C>, then press the <⊙> button.



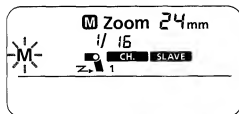
- 4 Set the flash output.
  - Press the <⊙> button.
  - The slave ID <A> will blink.
  - Turn the <⊙> dial to set the flash output for <A>, then press the <⊙> button.
  - The slave ID <B> will blink. Turn the <⊙> dial to set the flash output for <B>, then press the <⊙> button.
  - The slave ID <C> will blink. Turn the <⊙> dial to set the flash output for <C>, then press the <⊙> button.
  - All the slave IDs will light.

## Setting Manual Flash and Stroboscopic Flash with the Slave Unit

Manual flash or stroboscopic flash can be set manually with the slave unit. Do this in the following cases:

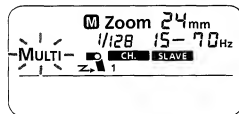
- (1) When you want to set the flash output with the slave units individually for wireless or manual flash, as with studio flash units.
- (2) When you use Speedlite Transmitter ST-E2 for wireless or manual flash.

### Manual Flash

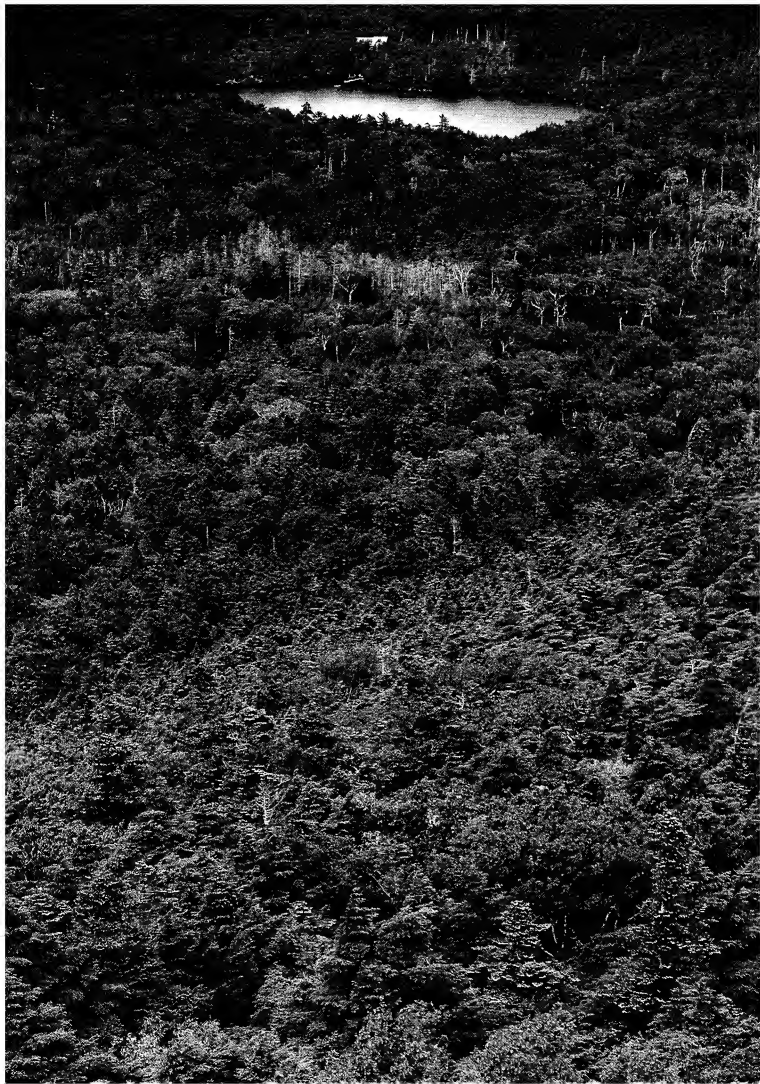


- Press the <MODE> button for 2 sec.
- ▼ <M> will blink.
- Set the manual flash output (p.22).

### Stroboscopic Flash



- Press the <MODE> button for 2 sec.
- ▼ <M> will blink.
- Press the <MODE> button again and <MULTI> will blink.
- Set the stroboscopic flash (p.24).



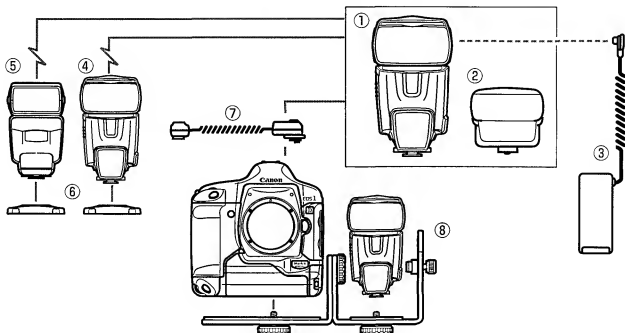
# 4

## Reference

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## 580EX System



- ① **Speedlite 580EX** (On-camera/Master unit)
- ② **Speedlite Transmitter ST-E2**  
Dedicated transmitter for wireless control of 580EX/420EX set as slave units.
- ③ **Compact Battery Pack CP-E3**  
Compact and lightweight external power source. Accommodates eight size-AA alkaline or Ni-MH batteries. It can also use size-AA lithium batteries.
- ④ **Speedlite 580EX** (Slave unit)
- ⑤ **Speedlite 420EX** (Slave unit)
- ⑥ **Mini stand** (included with 580EX/420EX)
- ⑦ **Off-Camera Shoe Cord 2**  
Enables the 580EX to be connected to the camera up to 60 cm/2 ft away. All of the EOS camera's automatic functions can be used.
- ⑧ **Speedlite Bracket SB-E1**

## About Color Temperature Information Transmission

When the flash fires, the color temperature information is transmitted to certain specific EOS digital camera. This feature optimizes the flash picture's white balance. When the camera's color balance is set to <AWB> or <☀>, it will work automatically.

To see if this feature works with your camera, see the white balance specification in the "Major Specifications" of your camera's instruction manual.

## Reverting to 580EX Default Settings

If your EOS camera has the <CLEAR> button, you can press it to revert the camera settings (except Custom Functions) to the default.

## About the AF-Assist Beam

Under low-light or low-contrast conditions, the built-in AF-assist beam will be emitted automatically to make it easier to autofocus. The AF-assist beam works with all EOS cameras. The AF-assist beam is compatible with 28mm and longer lenses. The effective range is shown below.

Position	Effective Range (m / ft)
Center	0.6 - 10 / 2 - 32.8
Periphery	0.6 - 5 / 2 - 16.4

# Troubleshooting

Have a problem? See the table below.

---

## The Speedlite does not detach from the camera.

- **The mounting foot's locking pin has not been retracted.**
- ▼ Loosen the locking ring all the way before detaching the Speedlite. (p.9)

## The Speedlite does not fire.

- **The batteries are installed in the wrong orientation.**
- ▼ Install the batteries in the correct orientation. (p.8)
- **The Speedlite's internal batteries are exhausted.**
- ▼ If the flash recycling time is 30 sec. or longer, replace the batteries. (p.8)
- ▼ Install the Speedlite's internal batteries even when you use an external power source. (p.8)
- **Attach the Speedlite securely to the camera.**
- ▼ Attach the Speedlite's mounting foot securely to the camera. (p.9)
- **The electrical contacts of the Speedlite and camera are dirty.**
- ▼ Clean the contacts. (p.9)

## The slave unit does not fire.

- **The slave's wireless selector is not set to <SLAVE>.**
- ▼ Set it to <SLAVE>. (p.34)
- **The slave unit is not positioned properly.**
- ▼ Place the slave unit within the master unit's transmission range. (p.35)
- ▼ Point the slave unit's sensor toward the master unit. (p.35)

## The power turns off by itself.

- **After 90 sec. of idle operation, auto power off took effect.**
- ▼ Press the shutter button halfway or press the test firing button. (p.10)

## The entire LCD panel blinks.

- **The wide panel has been pulled out for bounce flash.**
- ▼ Retract the wide panel. (p.20)

## **The flash range scale bars blink.**

- **The flash head has been tilted down by 7°.**
- ▼ Change the bounce position. (p.19)

## **The periphery or bottom of the picture looks dark.**

- **When you set the flash coverage manually, the setting was a higher number than the lens focal length, resulting in a dark periphery.**
- ▼ Set the flash coverage that is a lower number than the lens focal length or set it to auto zoom. (p.20)
- **If only the bottom of the picture looks dark, you were too close to the subject.**
- ▼ If the subject is closer than 2 m/6.6 ft, tilt the flash head downward by 7°. (p.19)

## **The flash exposure is underexposed or overexposed.**

- **There was a highly reflective object (glass window, etc.) in the picture.**
- ▼ Use FE lock. (p.16)
- **The subject has a very dark or light color.**
- ▼ Set flash exposure compensation. For a dark subject, set a decreased flash exposure. And for a bright subject, set an increased flash exposure. (p.14)
- **You used high-speed sync.**
- ▼ With high-speed sync, the effective flash range will be shorter. Make sure the subject is within the effective flash range displayed. (p.17)

## **The picture is really blurred.**

- **The shooting mode was set to <Av>, and the scene was dark.**
- ▼ Use a tripod or set the shooting mode to <P>. (p.12)

# Major Specifications

## • Type

Type:	On-camera, E-TTL II/E-TTL/TTL autoflash Speedlite
Compatible cameras:	Type-A EOS cameras (E-TTL II/E-TTL autoflash), Type-B EOS cameras (TTL autoflash)
Guide No.:	58/190 (at 105mm focal length, ISO 100 in meters/feet)
Flash coverage:	24 - 105mm (14mm with wide panel) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Auto zoom (flash coverage set automatically for lens focal length and image size)</li><li>• Manual zoom</li><li>• Flash head swing (bounce flash)</li></ul>
Flash duration:	Normal flash: 1.2 ms or shorter, Quick flash: 2.3 ms or shorter

Color temperature  
information transmission:

Flash color temperature information transmitted to camera

## • Exposure Control

Exposure Control Type:	E-TTL II/E-TTL/TTL autoflash, manual flash
Flash range (with 50mm f/1.4, ISO 100):	Normal flash: 0.5 - 30 m / 1.6 - 98.4 ft Quick flash: 0.5 - 7.5 m / 1.6 - 24.6 ft (min.) 0.5 - 21m / 1.6 - 68.9 ft (max.) High-speed sync: 0.5 - 15 m / 1.6 - 49.2 ft (at 1/250 sec.)
Flash exposure compensation:	Manual, FEB: $\pm 3$ stops in 1/3-stop increments (Manual and FEB can be combined)
FE lock:	With <FE L> button or <★> button
High-speed sync:	Provided
Stroboscopic flash:	Provided (1 - 199 Hz)
Flash exposure confirmation:	Pilot lamp lights

## • Flash Recycling (with size-AA alkaline batteries)

Recycling time/ Flash-ready indicator:	Normal flash: 0.1 to 6 sec. / Red pilot lamp lights Quick flash: 0.1 to 3 sec. / Green pilot lamp lights
---	---

## • Wireless Flash

Transmission method:	Optical pulse
Channels:	4
Wireless options:	OFF, Master, and Slave

Transmission range

(Approx.):

Outdoors: 12 - 15 m / 39.4 - 49.2 ft,

Indoors: 8 - 10 m / 26.2 - 32.8 ft

Reception angle:  $\pm 40^\circ$  horizontal,  $\pm 30^\circ$  vertical

Controllable slave groups:

3 (A, B, and C)

Flash ratio control:

1:8 - 1:1 - 8:1 in 1/2-stop increments

Slave-ready indicator:

AF-assist beam blinks

Modeling flash:

Fired with camera's depth-of-field preview button

### • Custom Functions:

14 (28 settings)

### • AF-Assist Beam

Linkable AF points:

1 - 45 AF points (28mm or longer focal length)

Effective range (Approx.):

At center: 0.6 - 10 m / 2.0 - 32.8 ft,

Periphery: 0.6 - 5 m / 2.0 - 16.4 ft

### • Power Source

Internal power:

Four size-AA alkaline

\* Size-AA Ni-MH or lithium batteries also possible

Battery life

(Approx. flash count):

100 - 700 flashes (with size-AA alkaline batteries)

Battery life

(Approx. wireless transmissions):

1500 transmissions (Master unit firing disabled, size-AA alkaline batteries)

Power saving:

Power off after 90 sec. or idle operation (60 min. if set as slave)

External power sources:

Compact Battery Pack CP-E3

### • Dimensions

(W x H x D):

76 x 134 x 114 mm / 3.0 x 5.3 x 4.5 in

### • Weight:

375 g / 13.2 oz (Speedlite only, excluding batteries)

☛ All specifications are based on Canon's testing criteria.

☛ Product specifications and external appearance are subject to change without notice.

## Guide No. (GNo.) (ISO 100, in meters/feet)

### Normal Flash (Full Output) and Quick Flash (GNo.)

Flash Coverage (mm)	14	24	28	35	50	70	80	105
<b>Normal Flash (Full output)</b>	15/ 49.2	28/ 91.9	30/ 98.4	36/ 118.1	42/ 137.8	50/ 164	53/ 173.9	58/ 190.3
<b>Quick Flash</b>	Same as 1/2 to 1/6 manual flash output							

### Manual Flash (GNo.)

Flash Output	Flash Coverage (mm)							
	14	24	28	35	50	70	80	105
<b>1/1</b>	15/ 49.2	28/ 91.9	30/ 98.4	36/ 118.1	42/ 137.8	50/ 164	53/ 173.9	58/ 190.3
<b>1/2</b>	10.6/ 34.8	19.8/ 65	21.2/ 69.6	25.5/ 83.7	29.7/ 97.4	35.4/ 116.1	37.5/ 123	41/ 134.5
<b>1/4</b>	7.5/ 24.6	14/ 45.9	15/ 49.2	18/ 59.1	21/ 68.9	25/ 82	26.5/ 86.9	29/ 95.1
<b>1/8</b>	5.3/ 17.4	9.9/ 32.5	10.6/ 34.8	12.7/ 41.7	14.8/ 48.6	17.7/ 58.1	18.7/ 61.4	20.5/ 67.3
<b>1/16</b>	3.8/ 12.5	7/ 23	7.5/ 24.6	9/ 29.5	10.5/ 34.4	12.5/ 41	13.3/ 43.6	14.5/ 47.6
<b>1/32</b>	2.7/ 8.9	4.9/ 16.1	5.3/ 17.4	6.4/ 21	7.4/ 24.3	8.8/ 28.9	9.4/ 30.8	10.3/ 33.8
<b>1/64</b>	1.9/ 6.2	3.5/ 11.5	3.8/ 12.5	4.5/ 14.8	5.3/ 17.4	6.3/ 20.7	6.6/ 21.7	7.3/ 24
<b>1/128</b>	1.3/ 4.3	2.5/ 8.2	2.7/ 8.9	3.2/ 10.5	3.7/ 12.1	4.4/ 14.4	4.7/ 15.4	5.1/ 16.7

## Using a Type-B Camera

If you use the 580EX with a Type-B camera (TTL autoflash camera), note the available features and restrictions below.

When a Type-B camera is used with the 580EX set to autoflash, <TTL> will be displayed on the Speedlite's LCD panel. (With a Type-A camera, <ETTL> will be displayed.)

### Features Available with All Type-B Cameras

Configuration	Available Features
On-camera shooting	TTL autoflash
	Flash exposure compensation
	FEB
	Manual flash
	Stroboscopic flash
	Second-curtain sync
Wireless flash	Manual flash
	Stroboscopic flash

### Features not Available with Any Type-B Cameras

- E-TTL II/E-TTL autoflash
- FE lock
- High-speed sync (FP flash)
- Autoflash with wireless flash
- Flash ratio set with multi-Speedlite wireless flash

### Features Available with Some Type-B Cameras

- EOS 650/620: FEB
- EOS 750/850: FEB, stroboscopic flash, second-curtain sync, wireless flash
- EOS 700: FEB in modes except <Tv>

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Do not make any changes or modifications to the equipment unless otherwise specified in the instructions. If such changes or modifications should be made, you could be required to stop operation of the equipment.

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications.

However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

This digital apparatus does not exceed the Class B limits for radio noise emissions from digital apparatus as set out in the interference-causing equipment standard entitled "Digital Apparatus", ICES-003 of the Industry Canada.

The apparatus shall not be exposed to dripping or splashing.  
Batteries shall not be exposed to excessive heat such as sunshine, fire or the like.  
Dry batteries shall not be subjected to charging.



This mark indicates that the product complies with Australia's EMC regulations.



This Instructions booklet is dated July 2004. For information on the camera's compatibility with system accessories marketed after this date, contact your nearest Canon Service Center.



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